

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6th February 2020

*All meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise
Stuart Treadaway, our Ward Cllr, attends when possible*

Present: Cllrs Jim Corbett (Chair), Lynda Redding, Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold
In Attendance: Stuart Treadaway (Congresbury & Puxton Ward Cllr), Don Hill (Clerk)
Public Attendance: 0

012/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Jim Howard

013/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS - none

014/20 PUBLIC SESSION

No formal public session or reports, but the matter detailed at Minute 020/20 below was actually discussed at this point.

Cllr Treadaway reported that the Congresbury medical surgery will now be open 5 days per week. He also explained two key interlinking West of England policies, currently being finalised. There is a Joint Spatial Strategy (JSP) - dealing with medium term planning strategies - which has been referred back from Central Government for significant further work. There is also a Joint Transport Strategy (JTS), which has been developed to service the needs of the JSP. Although the JTS will need to be revised to suit the demands of the new JSP when it is approved, the current JTS is going forward on an interim basis as, without a JTS in place, the contingent central government grants would not be available to continue transport funding.

015/20 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 5th December 2019 - were agreed, and signed by the Chair.

016/20 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE - none

017/20 PLANNING (For full application details visit <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>)

A370 Pedestrian Crossing: Awaiting updated costing from NSC.

New: 20-P-0003-FUL Puxton Lane, 2nd Barn in field near Willow Farm - **No objections**

Due: 19/P/0815/FUL Puxton Pk car park. **19/P/2633/FUL** Mendip View Business Park: Erection of 9 light industrial units - under extended consideration. **Pilhay Farm: 19/P/2773/FUL:** Alterations to buildings.

Heathfield Park: 19/P/2816/FUL: 3 additional pitches. **19/P/2818/FUL:** 4 additional pitches. **19/P/0723/OUT** Full Quart - under extended consideration having been called in to the NSC planning committee.

Approved: Wick Lane Solar Farm: 19/P/2738/FUL extension to 40 year life.

Withdrawn: 19/P/2868/LBC 2 Annes Lodge. Conservation roof-lights. **19/P/0704/FUL** J21 Park & Ride.

018/20 FINANCE

2019-20 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers, reviewed and noted.

Cheques: 253 Zurich Insurance for 2020-21 £244.72. 254 VisionICT, our website hosts, for preparation of Accessibility Statement re Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) which is complex to comply with, and which we are legally bound to adhere to by September 23rd 2020.

019/20 ITEMS MONITORED BY CLERK

Puxton Lane Goose Acre Farm: Blocked under-road culvert at Goose Acre Farm: being investigated.

Puxton Lane Goose Acre Farm: The curb collapse here is serious and has been coned off by NSC pending repair.

Maysgreen Lane Cheese Factory 'temporary' edge repair on job list. Cllr Corbett noted that the area is getting worse to the point of being dangerous.

Puxton Lane Grip in hand via area officer.

Puxton Lane Curb: Flood resistance team response awaited.

Puxton Rd Drainage at Council Houses/Wyndham Grange: Revised work date awaited.

Puxton Road - Curb break by Briarwood Farm. Area Officer acknowledges problem and is pursuing.

Puxton Rd/Lane junction: sign re-siting on job list... but in queue.

A370 Footpath: Cllr Penfold cleared area outside Penfold Plastics - it took six hours and revealed no need for tarmac renovation. Other Members had noted this contribution. **Clerk to update his original letter of complaint to the new NSC officer in charge.**

A370 Flailing: sections not already done are on new job list.

Done: Wick Lane Rail Bridge: further clearing of verges done. **Wick Lane:** Gully outside Manor Farm not now to be causing problems. **Puxton Rd/Lane Junction** - White lines added to triangle area.

020/20 OTHER MATTERS

Airport Expansion: NSC decision due on Feb 10th. Cllr Treadaway is gathering local views as a prelude to the Feb 10th meeting. The meeting's discussion exposed ambivalence among Members as to the efficacy of the scheme. Overflying noise was noted as a disturbance - traffic issues were not raised. The conclusion was that the noise was tolerable, given the employment opportunities on offer and the convenience of such a local airport facility. A wry reference to the timescale for the emergence of electric planes echoed an underlying concern about the allowance of un-conditioned permission for expansion.

021/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr P Penfold: National Grid plan an access point at 'Parsons Bend' on the A370 for their Hinkley-Avonmouth pylon project - a potentially dangerous point on this fast section of road. He would be happy to allow access via his Moorland Park entrance, which is arguably a safer point along the road. **Cllr Redding agreed to see who, in National Grid, would be the appropriate person to contact about this, as a prelude to the Clerk contacting them with the idea in principle. Clerk noted that the whole area of this topic is in the Civil parish of Congresbury and that their Clerk will need to be involved.**

Cllr Redding: Village Hall - National Grid have granted £20,000 and Enovert (a waste management group) have granted £45,000 towards ongoing renovations to the Hall. Two further grant applications are extant, which, if successful, will ensure the total of some £100,000 needed for the complete renovation work to bring the Hall up to a 21st century standard. Cllr P Penfold said Lynda, having already been the anchor to raising the purchase money for the Hall, was proving herself indomitable in her energies to ensure its 21st century future (outbreak of unanimous applause). **Nextdoor Puxton** - A flyer has been circulated to homes in the Parish (originally thought to be a scam - which all Members seemed to have received) offering the email neighbourhood register that was offered through our Community News sheet some time ago at the instigation of Cllr Howard. That initiative did not take off, coming as it did at the dawn of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that were emerging into UK law. **(Post meeting, Clerk investigated via a written-off computer. Nextdoor appears to be a USA based commercial exercise in accumulating marketing data. It may be that the central thesis of its being a community hub for one's particular community might be a ruse to gather data for onward marketing. Given the current nervous climate relating to online security, it would appear prudent not to pursue the presently circulated invitation to join. There is no reference to GDPR which, in itself, seems likely to expose it to illegality within the Europe/UK context.)** **Flavours Hedge:** This is still on course for being done. Clerk reported that NSC, in any event, intend to issue a written demand that the work be done, as it prevents a clear driver exit view from Maysgreen Lane onto the A370.

Cllr Corbett: Puxton Lane - Oldbridge River Bridge: This should be regarded as a heritage asset. Instead, NSC plan to replace it with a standard, modern, characterless Somerset Levels metal-railed bridge which the Council has minuted agreement to accepting. Historically the original bridge as been an attractive hump-backed facility originally stone-sided but, more recently, sided in simple wooden planks: it is undeniably attractive. Over many years, heavy transport has, despite the placing of stout metal bollards, regularly 'wrecked' the wooden sides of the bridge. NSC's planned replacement will be a level bridge that will be wider in structure - to move the sides away from potential traffic damage - but with a similar carriageway width. It is planned to future-proof the highway for the next 60 years in the context of surrounding planning developments. Cllr Corbett strongly believes that the existing bridge should be renovated and preserved as a listed feature of our Community. **He asked Cllr Treadaway if he could investigate this possibility.**

022/20 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - March 5th 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm