

PUXTON CIVIL PARISH

2022 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

HEWISH & PUXTON VILLAGE HALL - TUESDAY 17th MAY 2022 AT 7.30 pm

*16 Residents attended the meeting, which was Chaired by Lynda Redding, Chair of Puxton Parish Council
Our Ward Cllr, Phil Neve, and 2 police officers were in attendance, including our local PCSO*

Minute Taker: Don Hill

MINUTES

ARM22/01 **Apologies** - none

ARM22/02 **Matters arising from minutes of the 2021 meeting**

These minutes were circulated to and approved by attendees of that meeting - there were no matters arising.

ARM22/03 **Reports from Interest Groups**

The Parish Council (Cllr Lynda Redding - Chair): The Chair's Annual Report to the Council was read out and **is appended to form a part of these minutes.**

North Somerset Council (Cllr Phil Neve, Ward Councillor): Cllr Neve tries to attend some 50% of meetings given timetable clashes with Congresbury and NSC. Highways and public transport are key issues currently dominating his time. Traffic calming and speed limits are being looked at by NSC and the needs of Puxton are part of that process. There are some significant public transport grants becoming available to NSC and hopefully this might help to fund improvements to Puxton bus stops (some of which have virtually no space to stand safely whilst waiting for a bus) and associated crossing points along the A370. For more rural areas off main transport routes NSC plan to investigate dial-a-bus services. Cllr Neve realises there are a wide range of more specific problems that may be worrying residents, and said he will be happy to be contacted to see in what ways he might be able to help.

Hewish & Puxton Village Hall Ltd (Lynda Redding - Chair): Lynda said that the past year has been very much a getting-bak-to-normal year. The major works carried out were the installation of a new sewage treatment plant and equipping the Hall with the facilities needed to cater for the maximum allowed seating capacity of 120. The hall is now back to having regular bookings every day although there are times of day where occasional hirings can be accepted. Lynda reminded everyone of the Jubilee Party at the Hall on June 5th, which is being funded by Hall Management and the Parish Council. Volunteers delivered flyers about the party to homes in the parish, and, although this is a free event, entry will be by ticket so that numbers can be controlled.

ARM/04 **Open Discussion**

Maysgreen Lane: this narrow and winding lane continues to be plagued by huge vehicles, speeding, and a lack of safe passing places. Over the years vehicles have been forced off the road, thereby breaking up the edges and creating dangerously rutted areas. These areas need to be incorporated into the highway as official passing places. Cllr Neve is already involved with NSC about Maysgreen lane and noted down these very real concerns.

Police: PCSO Julie Berchall introduced herself as our PCSO. She explained that police funding over recent years has meant that they have been attending very few parish council meetings, but have endeavoured to keep in touch and do the much needed work on the ground. Things

are now beginning to improve and Julie asked that people feel free to contact her if they need to and particularly to keep her informed of significant events that are being held.

Overgrown Footpaths: Much work has recently been done to improve our local footpaths but some remain overgrown. *Lynda Redding will liaise with the resident who raised the problem and walk the paths to assess what needs doing. The Parish Council will then be able to contact NSC re getting the work done.*

Footpath Closures: there are footpath closures in various parts of the Parish, but it was explained that these are temporary, and to do with work National Grid are carrying out for their pylon project.

Field Opposite the Full Quart: The works going on here are the subject of a planning enforcement investigation. Both Cllr Neve and Don Hill in his role as Parish Clerk will put pressure on NSC to establish exactly what is going on and if it needs their intervention.

A370 Gullies Opposite SJH Machinery: These need emptying. *Don Hill will liaise with our NSC Area Engineer, who looks after these gullies.*

A370 Speeding: Julie reported that the police now have their own speed gun which people are currently being trained up to use. This should enable them to carry out speed checks once safe operating positions have been identified.

Fibre To The Property (FTTP) Broadband: After the meeting Don Hill verified the options. Although Truespeed and Gigaclear have no published plans to provide this service, BT Open Reach indicate, via their post code search facility, that Fibre to the Cabinet (the poor relation to FTTP) is now available in all parts of Puxton Parish.

There being no further topics raised, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and being involved

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Annual Meeting - 17th May 2022 at 6:30pm

Report of the Chair

Meetings

The Parish Council held the last allowable Zoom meeting in May 2021. At this meeting our Chair, Jim Corbett, asked to stand down due to ill health. It was unanimously agreed that the then Vice Chair, Lynda Redding, become Chair and Jim Corbett continue as Vice Chair.

Due to Covid it seemed prudent to cancel the June and July meetings and, as usual, we had no August meeting. Since then our meetings have been “real-life” and monthly, starting at 7pm. In September we welcomed a new co-opted member of the Council, Helen Riddell.

Agendas

We have had a steady stream of planning applications, mostly fairly routine.

The speed of vehicles along our lanes are always a concern and we continue to urge North Somerset Council to consider reducing the speed limits. The additional traffic caused by the National Grid activity has led to us to seek a 20mph limit along Maysgreen Lane. Damage to the roads caused by heavy traffic continues to be reported.

The two major works are scheduled to be completed this year, 2022-23. The central refuge type pedestrian crossing across the A370 at the lay-by and bus stop will be better than nothing but I am aware we need more to help pedestrians cross this busy road in other places. The new bridge across the Oldbridge river is planned to be done this year but is dependent on the recruitment of an additional engineer to manage the project. This is a controversial project as many parishioners have voiced their concern at losing this lovely old bridge and are worried that a wider bridge will encourage yet more heavy fast traffic along Puxton Lane. Unfortunately, we are told the bridge has to be strengthened, NSC assure us there will be a width restriction on the new bridge.

Finance

Another uneventful year. The online banking continues to facilitate payments. We are grateful to our Clerk for managing our finances, accounts and audits efficiently. We have budgeted £4,000 to pay half the cost of the pedestrian crossing.

It has been a “getting back to normal” year but I am mindful that for some, things will never be the same as they were pre-pandemic. We hope you feel comfortable joining us for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Sunday June 5th.

Lynda Redding

May 2022