

# PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

**Clerk: Donald Hill**

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## You are summoned to a Zoom Meeting on Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7pm

Members of the public may join the meeting via the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77785073863?pwd=OW9WSXhtZC8wV0V0OS9yeU1NamFFZz09>

They are only able to participate in the meeting during the Public Session at Agenda Item 3

**Don Hill - Clerk**

## AGENDA & AGENDA NOTES

*We have a vacancies for 2 Councillors - contact the Clerk or a Councillor, in the first instance, to apply*

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

## ANNUAL MEETING

### 2 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

### 3 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

### 4 CHAIR'S REPORT

## ORDINARY MEETING

### 5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6 **PUBLIC SESSION** (15 minutes) Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point.

7 **MEETING MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING** - 1st April to be discussed, agreed and to be signed by Chair.

### 8 GOVERNANCE

**Annual Governance Statement Approval:** In relation to the Annual Review of Governance documents (Minute 020/21 of the February 2021 meeting), Section 1 of the 2020-21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - The Annual Governance Statement will be circulated with the meeting papers, to be reviewed and agreed at the meeting, for signature by the Meeting Chair and Clerk as a true representation of the Council's internal governance controls.

9 **PLANNING** (Full details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>. New applications may be listed on the Monday immediately prior to the meeting; if so, details will be pre-circulated to Councillors)

**New: 21/P/0808/FUH** Rosemary Cottage, Wick Lane - single storey side and rear ground floor extensions to main dwelling and extension to rear of garage to create summer house. **21/P/1063/AOC** Request to discharge condition numbers 19 (Ecological Constraints), 20 (LEMP), 22 (Surface water), 23 (Foul drainage) and 25 (CMP) on application 19/P/2633/FUL | Mendip View Business Park Bristol Road Hewish BS24 6RX (for information only).

**Decisions Due:** 21/P/0676/FUL Willow Farm Drive. 21/P/0511/FUH Tile House Studio Extension. 20/P/1438/FUL Park & Ride adjacent to Heathfield Park. 20/P/2790/FUL: Puxton Court Farmhouse: 3 dwellings. 19/P/0815/FUL **Puxton Park** car park. 20/P/1756/FUL Opposite Full Quart; stables.

**Approved:** 21/P/0417/FUH Chestnut Court: Extension.

**Refused:** 21/P/0542/AGA Willow Farm Barn (proposal does not constitute permitted development).

## 10 FINANCE

i) **2020-21 Accounts:** agreed via email, sent for internal audit, which is now complete.

ii) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 (AGAR):** Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2020/21 Part 2 & Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020-21: each to be reviewed, agreed and signed off.

**2021-21 Accounts to Date:** pre-circulated.

**Payments:** (via online banking). Phil Smith Internal Audit £45.00

## 11 OTHER MATTERS

**Maysgreen Lane:** Possible candidate for 20mph speed limit? NSC may be extending 20mph zones. Government's guideline average speed needs to be as low as 24mph for a 20mph zone to be installed.  
**Clerk to sound out NSC.**

**Public Footpaths:** Outcome of NSC footpaths initiative awaited.

**A370 Village Entry Planters:** Their future maintenance?

## 12 ITEMS MONITORED BY CLERK *(shared with Area Officer each month)*

**A370 Pedestrian Crossing:** Installation due.

**Puxton Road:** Work re flooding at Council Houses appears to have started.

**A370 link between Old Post Office and Palmers Elm:** now to be done by works team.

## 13 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

## 14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday July 1st in the Village Hall \* - time to be decided.

*\* **June Meeting Date:** Due to evolving Covid-19 regulations it currently appears that it will not be possible to hold parish council meetings - electronic or in person - from 7th May until July; therefore **there will be no Parish Council meeting in June.***

**Puxton Parish Council**  
**Annual Meeting - via Zoom - 6th May 2021 at 7pm**

**Report of the Chair**

**Meetings**

Covid has meant the past year has been extraordinary, and perhaps less busy, than a normal year.

There was no meeting in April.

Following guidance, there was no Annual Residents' Meeting in 2020. A ruling came out that electronic signatures would not be acceptable on audit documents, so a brief meeting was held in the car park of the Village Hall, towards the end of May, to sign off the the audit papers and to ratify the pre-agreed annual meeting matters.

The next meeting was in July and was our first attempt at a virtual meeting. Luckily, although some of us had previously had no cause to use Zoom, we got the hang of it, and were lucky that, with notoriously poor signals in parts of our parish, all Councillors were able to get a good enough broadband signal to manage meetings.

With, as usual, no meeting in August, We re-started Zoom meetings (at 7pm rather than at 7.30pm) on the 1st Thursday of each month.

After May 6th 2021, latest packs of guidance (as usual somewhat conflicting) mean that we will not be able to hold meetings, electronically or in person, until July 2021.

**Agendas**

In July we had 12 planning applications going through the NSC system, and a healthy flow of these continued to appear from month to month... some contentious, but most fairly routine.

There were also a range of highway issues that looked as though they would be severely slowed down by an overstretched workforce. As some were dealt with theres appeared, of course, but the main future 'event' will be the replacement of the Oldbridge River bridge, for which NSC now have planning permission. We are also expecting a central reservation to be installed on the A370 in the area of the bus stops near Palmers Elm.

Everyone is seriously concerned about the NSC delays in rectifying the drainage issues at Council Houses in Puxton Road. The road floods on a bend and is an invitation to skid to an unwary driver. The floods often make the road impassable for pedestrians and cut off the entrance to at least one of the houses.

**Finance**

An uneventful year. Key recurring expenditures are now managed via bank standing orders. Cheque handling has proved a bit of a challenge during Covid, with our creditors proving to be very tollerant of delays enforced by the various-lockdowns. We have now got online banking to secure a smoother payment provision and to cover payments in the event of any future lock-down problems.

All-in-all then, an unusual year, from which we hope to move on positively as we emerge from the Covid crisis - a process which may take years rather than months.

## Minutes of the Zoom Parish Council Meeting on 1st April 2021 at 7pm

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Stuart Treadaway, our Ward Cllr, attends when possible.

*We have vacancies for two Councillors - contact the Clerk or a Councillor, in the first instance, to apply*

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

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 1

**034/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Jim Corbett

**035/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Cllrs Clayton and Peter Penfold are close neighbours of the proposed Park and Ride application 20/P/1438/FUL

**036/21 PUBLIC SESSION** - none

**037/21 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** - 4th March 2021 - were agreed, for signature by the Chair.

**038/21 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE** - none

**039/21 PLANNING** (Full details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>. New applications may be listed on the Monday immediately prior to the meeting; if so, details will be pre-circulated to Councillors)

**New: 21/P/0542/AGA Willow Farm Barn. 21/P/0676/FUL Willow Farm Drive. 21/P/0511/FUH Tile House Garden Studio Extension. Members raised no objections to these three applications.**

**20/P/1438/FUL Park & Ride adjacent to Heathfield Park, Bristol Road, for Bristol Airport with 3101 parking spaces plus arrival/departure area.**

This application was discussed among members during the weeks before the meeting as well as at the meeting. In many ways it mirrors the recent application at J21; to that extent the objections to the application (as below) remain as at J21:

### **PPC Comment on planning Application 19/P/0704/FUL on 7th June 2019**

*The draft minute of Puxton Parish Council's review of the application reads:*

*Banwell Parish Application: 19/P/0704/FUL Park & Ride plus airport bus shuttle for 3000 cars. Information about this application arrived with us too late for review at our May meeting.*

*At first sight, from transport and business perspectives, this appears to be a sensible and logically argued proposal. The justification is that, on an analysis of all the available parking possibilities within a reasonable distance of the airport, this is the strongest contender as it is not in the green belt and takes car-parkers off the highway as soon as they exit the motorway: all those car journeys to the airport will be replaced by a few shuttle buses. As the Bristol Airport plan to provide car parking on a green belt site runs contrary to NSC policy and must therefore be refused, the J21 site will be the logical place to service the already proven need for extra airport parking.*

*Upon reflection, the bulk of airport traffic does not use the A370 / Brockley Coombe route. It is signposted off along the Portway in the north and onto the A38 in the south. The necessary motorway signage to airport access via J21 is surely going to increase airport traffic onto the A370*

route that has no intention of using the Park & Ride facility. This increase in traffic volumes, the application claims, will mostly be from the south, so leaving the motorway nearer the airport will seem logical for the average driver. J21 is at the hub of a densely crowded section of the motorway: increasing the traffic flows on this section of road is likely to increase the risk of incidents closing the motorway and creating traffic gridlock between Gordano and Weston-Super-Mare. The J21 proposal will move the problem of airport parking into a narrow, commuter-crowded valley system blocked by hills to the east and the sea to the west, it will not resolve that problem but, rather, exacerbate the already notorious congestion that each motorway incident within that valley system brings.

After weighing up the pros and cons of the application, members unanimously felt that, on balance, they needed to object to this application. Clerk to so inform NSC.

However, this proposal is sited in a more residential area and is a mile and a half away from the motorway J21. From the consultation responses already available it would seem that basic considerations re ecology, fumes, light pollution, noise pollution, drainage integrity etc have not been thought through to the satisfaction of the planners. It is therefore reasonable to presume that, unless all these issues can be resolved, the proposal is unlikely to go ahead. There is another major omission to the plan as presented: the A370 is already operating at saturation levels but, despite this, there is no provision proposed for the management of motor traffic and other road users on the A370 as they enter, exit, or pass the proposed entrance to the site. Without efficient A370 traffic management approaching the entrance to the site - a roundabout was specifically mentioned - we know from all too regular experience, that there is likely to be significant traffic mayhem along the whole length of the road between J21 and Congresbury, and perhaps beyond: this would obviously effect the reliability of the proposed airport bus service, which is the most crucial element of this proposal and which will, in any event, be compromised whenever there is a major incident on the M5, despite proposals for an alternative route. There will need to be safe provision for pedestrians, cyclists horse riders and others along this stretch of road as well - it already feels like an unsafe experience for those who have no option but to use it. Any workable traffic and people management system on the A370 is likely to take up significantly more land than is obviously available. The conclusion of Members was that the number and complexity of the issues that need resolving to make the proposed scheme work are probably more than can be achieved.

Clerk to report the concerns of Members to NSC planners.

**Decisions Due:** 20/P/2790/FUL: Puxton Court Farmhouse: 3 dwellings. 21/P/0417/FUH Chestnut Court: Extension. 19/P/0815/FUL Puxton Park car park. 20/P/1756/FUL Opposite Full Quart; stables.

#### 040/21 FINANCE

**2020-21 Accounts:** Full year accounts were pre-circulated to Members and it was agreed that they were a complete and accurate record of the Council's finances. Clerk to send the accounts to the internal auditor.

**Cheques:** 273 ALCA Sub £95.73 (this may be the first item to be paid via online banking rather than by cheque).

**Online Banking:** Application agreed and the account set up.

#### 041/21 OTHER MATTERS

**Maysgreen Lane:** Possible candidate for 20mph speed limit? NSC may be extending 20mph zones. Government's guideline average speed needs to be as low as 24mph for a 20mph zone to be installed. Clerk to sound out NSC.

**Public Footpaths:** Outcome of NSC footpaths initiative awaited.

#### 042/21 ITEMS MONITORED BY CLERK (shared with Area Officer each month)

**A370 Pedestrian Crossing:** Installation due.

**Puxton Lane:** Potholes by Oldbridge River Bridge: (Clerk checked post meeting - these have been done).

**Puxton Road:** Work re flooding at Council Houses. Awaiting a start date after March.

**A370 link between Old Post Office and Palmers Elm:** now to be done by works team.

**Maysgreen Lane:** The temporary repair by the cheese factory has been done. Shared funding for the installation of a passing place by the cheese factory would be acceptable in principle, but would too expensive to be feasible. NSC still have it in mind to do the work, but in the current crisis of work overload, labour and funds, do not have a timescale in mind.

**Maysgreen Lane:** The ditch/rhyne near Sunnyside is not significantly enough damaged to warrant a barrier.

#### 043/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

##### Cllr Redding:

**1. Recycling and waste collection services** transferred to a new NSC, wholly council-owned company North Somerset Environment Company Ltd (NSEC) on the 27th March 2021. If they become aware of any missed collections, residents are urged to report this by logging in to the 'MyAccount' page of the NSC website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/missedcollection](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/missedcollection). This is the only way to guarantee the missed collection is added to the missed collection list for the following day's collection.

**2. West of England Transport Webinar:** I attended The Mass Transit webinar on March 11th. This project is at the consultation phase, they are trying to find out what is wanted with an emphasis on what is needed to encourage use of trains and buses such as increased frequencies of services and more train stations.

**3. Litter:** Reporting problems to NSC relies on you having registered into their MyAccount system - which is easy - if you do things with NSC online you will be registered already. The link to reporting fly-tipping is: <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/parking-travel-roads/street-cleaning/fly-tipping>. As with the recycling issue, do report anything that concerns you so tht it can be followed up and dealt with.

#### 044/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - There will be two meetings on **May 6th 2021**, each via Zoom:

**7pm** The Annual Meeting of the Council.

**7.30pm** The Annual Residents' Meeting

**The Meeting Closed at 7.40pm**



